



Long Beach Police Department

Crime Watch News

Crime Prevention Unit . 100 Long Beach Blvd . Long Beach, CA 90802

Anthony W. Batts
Chief of Police

John Bretza
Deputy Chief of Police
Patrol Bureau

Ted Hulsey
Deputy Chief of Police
Investigations Bureau

Tim Jackman
Deputy Chief of Police
Support Bureau

Braden Phillips
Manager
Administration Bureau

Karen Owens
Administrator
Community Relations Division

Kevin Coy
Sergeant
Crime Prevention Unit
Community Relations Division

Lisa Massacani
PSA/Coordinator
Neighborhood Watch
Community Relations Division

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COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

Emergency Communications Operation Center (ECOC) Tour (Limited space available)

**Wednesday,
November 19, 2003
7:00 p.m.**

The Police and Fire Department's Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC)
is now on-line and operational!

This month we are extending an invitation for a limited number of people to tour the new center as part of our Monthly Community Crime Prevention Meeting. We will be able to accommodate only 40 people on this tour and can accept only those who R.S.V.P. Community Relations at 570-7215. Priority will be given to our regular monthly meeting participants. Additional openings will then be open on a first-R.S.V.P. basis. We will do our best to accommodate interested parties at a later date.

This will be our final Crime Prevention Meeting for the year! Thank you to all who have joined us throughout the year and our best wishes for a joyous holiday season. For those of you have not been able to attend these informative meetings, you're missing out! Please come and join us in January!

Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

- November 15, Saturday, 8:00 a.m.
South Wrigley Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Neighborhood Clean-Up
19th Street and Henderson Avenue
Call for further volunteer information: Teresa Gomez 570-6730
- November 15, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.
March of Dimes Walk
Bixby Park, Cherry Avenue and 1st Street
Call for further volunteer/participant information: Elisa Perry (213) 637-5064
- November 29, Saturday, 12:00 p.m.
Santa Visit and Police Department Toy Drive Collection
The Marketplace, 6501 E. Pacific Coast Highway, (PCH and Westminster)
Call for further information: Acting-Sergeant Harry Erickson 570-7448

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN TOY DRIVE



Christmas is coming very soon and the Long Beach Police Department's Annual Christmas for Needy Children Toy Drive is currently underway. This Christmas season, think how fortunate you have been and remember those less fortunate than yourself by contributing to this year's toy drive. There are many families and children in our city that otherwise will not feel the joy of Christmas. Please join us once again for another successful drive.

Once again, the police department is asking for your help by donating new unwrapped toys and new clothing for adults and children. Items such as blankets, cosmetics or beauty aids are also greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to contribute may drop off a contribution at any Long Beach Police facility and at several local stores throughout Long Beach. For additional information or if you need to arrange for items to be picked up, please contact Acting-Sergeant Harry Erickson at (562) 570-7448.



Note: This year the Police Department is hosting their own toy drive, not in conjunction with the Fire Department's Spark of Love program.

PIGEON DROP SCAM SCAM RESURFACES AND TARGETS ELDERLY

In recent weeks, several Long Beach residents have reported they have been victims of an old scam known as the "Pigeon Drop." The scam has resurfaced in the North Long Beach area and primarily targets the elderly population. Three incidents occurred in Long Beach during September and October, with victim's ages ranging between 70 to 76 years of age. The scam may also be related to incidents that have occurred in several South Bay cities including Redondo Beach.

Residents are cautioned to be aware of the following:

- Scams have involved anywhere from one to three suspects
- Victims are typically approached outside financial institutions
- Victims are told a believable story involving large amounts of money (9-11 attacks lawsuit settlement, money to donate to charity, found money the suspect learns he/she is entitled to keep, etc.)
- Suspect may show victim what appears to be a very large amount of cash
- Victims are convinced if they assist the suspect with his/her venture, the victim will be rewarded with a significant share of the cash
- Suspect may ask victim to drive them to victim's bank to withdrawal personal funds to prove they are trustworthy

If you are approached by anyone regarding a situation involving a significant amount of cash, you should not agree to any financial transactions or business arrangements, especially if the proposal "sounds to good to be true." If you are contacted or if you observe any related suspicious activity, you are urged to call 9-1-1 immediately. If you have been a victim of this type of scam or other fraud schemes, you should contact the Long Beach Police Department's Forgery Fraud Detail at (562) 570-7330.

Suspect Information

The three suspects that have been involved in the incidents are described as follows:

Suspect #1

Male African-American, 6'0" tall, and about 25 years old. He speaks with a foreign accent and was last seen wearing a large brown and green hat

Suspect #2

Male African-American, 5'8" tall, heavyset, and about 65 years-old

Suspect #3

Female African-American, black hair, brown eyes, 5'6" tall, 130 pounds, and about 25-30 years old. She was last seen wearing a light green pantsuit

If you are contacted by any of these suspects, please call 9-1-1 immediately!



GOLD SHIELD AWARDS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH RECOGNITION PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM

The Police Department and the Chief's Neighborhood Watch Advisory Group would like to recognize individuals and groups who, as participants in the Neighborhood Watch Program, have contributed to the improve-

ment of their neighborhood. Recognition should be given for:

- ◆ Significant accomplishments at the block or community level
- ◆ Significant neighborhood Improvements
- ◆ Improvements within the Neighborhood Watch Program
- ◆ Significant efforts in supporting the Neighborhood Watch Program

NOMINEE (Individual or Group)

Group (if group nomination): _____

Name (Block Captain if group nomination): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Briefly describe the nominee's contribution(s) to Neighborhood Watch.
Use additional pages if necessary.

How did you become aware of the nominee's contribution(s)?

NOMINATOR:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please submit your completed nomination form to the Community Relations Division by **February 1st, 2004**.



CHIEF MARKS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY



The Long Beach Police Department is proud to announce that Sunday, October 26, 2003, marked the 1st anniversary since Chief Anthony W. Batts was appointed as the Long Beach Police Department's 22nd Chief of Police.

A few of the significant Department accomplishments under Chief Batts' leadership during his first year are as follows:

- Implemented measures to impact crime that resulted in a decrease from 10% to 1.7%
- Experienced a reduction in homicides by 32%
- Realigned sworn staffing resulting in 42 sworn positions being moved back out "on the street" in order to increase police presence in the community and maintain response time
- Increased emphasis on Crime Analysis - tracking crimes and correlating arrest rates and clearance rates
- Restructured the detective divisions to form the new Gangs and Violent Crimes Division
- Increased officer productivity in the following areas: arrests up 16.74%, calls for service handled up 3.1% and number of reports taken up 7.9 %
- Hired 120 new police recruits and 17 lateral police officers
- Worked with community members to better define Community Policing and standardize its implementation throughout the Department
- Refocused the 15 Chief's Advisory Groups on crime-related programs and the development of collaborative solutions
- Implemented a customer service training and recognition program
- Created the Homeland Security Detail

Chief Batts and all of the employees of the Long Beach Police Department look forward to continuing their efforts to maximize the efficiency of the department, and working together with the community to make Long Beach a better place to live and work.

By Nancy Pratt, Press Info. Officer

CRIME WATCH
NEWS

LONG BEACH
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



Long Beach Police Department
Community Relations Division
100 Long Beach Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SUCCESS STORIES

*We're going to deviate from this month's **Neighborhood Watch Success Story** to showcase a different kind of neighborhood success story, our new (SPP) Senior Police Partners Volunteer Patrol Vehicles. After several years of perseverance and hard work, Senior Police Partners can now drive four newly dedicated patrol vehicles to help the folks in your neighborhood!*

Tell us about your successful neighborhood crime prevention efforts! Call us with the details or email information to Lisa_Massacani@longbeach.gov, and we'll create an article for an upcoming issue!

The Senior Police Partner Program will be driving in style from now on!

They have just received four newly refurbished police cars to assist them in their volunteer efforts. In the past, these dedicated senior volunteers have driven their personal vehicles to assist members of our community. Today, they will be easily recognized as Senior Police Volunteers, providing a more visible police presence with increased safety for its members. These vehicles will provide the ability for our senior volunteers to accomplish more, including traffic control assistance and the writing of handi-capped parking violations. The program can now also boast 31 members with the addition of 16 newly graduated members from our Senior Police Partner Academy! I know the department is excited to have our new members and these new vehicles, we hope you are too!

Be sure to give them a good hearty wave as they provide assistance in your neighborhood!



Door emblem showpieces our S.P.P. Volunteer Program!



One of four newly refurbished police cars dedicated to the Volunteer Senior Police Partner Program.



Vehicles are assigned to each Patrol Division.



S.P.P. Howard Duffy proudly shows off his new vehicle!